

# Medical Use of Placenta

Dr. Shobha Kundagol

## 1. Introduction

As we all know the medical importance of placenta, and its abundant nutritional value, many people of the world have known the secret of the placenta as a medical supplement. The placenta is considered to be a rich in nutrients that helps the mother to recover more readily from child birth. Among the Chinese and Vietnamese. It is a customary practice to prepare the placenta for conception by the mother.

### Anatomical Features of the Placenta

Placenta is a disc shaped organ which provides the sole physical link between mother and baby, at full term it weighs about 500 to 600 grams, has diameter of 15 to 20 cm, a thickness of 2 to 3cm. the basic structural unit of placenta made up of chorionic villus cotyledons, the 3 layers are AMNION, CHORIAN, and DACIDUA.

### Function of the Placenta

- Act as a fetal respirator, draws oxygen and excretes carbon dioxide.
- It breaks down complex nutrients in to compounds which can be used by the fetus.
- All the micro and macro nutrients transfer o baby including water.
- Some amount of glucose it stores in the form of glycogen and reconverts it to glucose when required.
- At the end of pregnancy small antibodies, immunoglobins G (IgG) will be transfer to the fetus, and provide immunity to the baby for the first 3 months after the birth.
- Hormonal production such as Hcg (human chorionic gonadotropin), estrogen, progesterone, and human placental lactogenic.

### Medicinal Use of Placent

- Placentophagy is the practice of eating placenta.
- Rich contents of vitamins and minerals that help to fight depression syndrome.
- It is considered rich in iron and protein which would be useful to women recovering from child birth and particular benefit to vegetarian mother.
- It helps to lactation.
- It expedites the complication of labor.
- Mother undergoing delivery takes bite of raw placenta to stop hemorrhaging due to its beneficial oxytocin content.
- The placenta contains high level prostaglandin which stimulates involution of the uterus.
- The placenta contains small amount of oxytocin which eases birth stress and cause the smooth muscles around the mammary cell to contract and eject milk.

- Amnion membrane is successfully applied in the ophthalmic practice surgery and wound healing.
- Cord blood cells are most widely used placental component in modern medicine,
- Now a days placental banking also started to preserve fragments of membrane, tissue, placental extracts and cord serum.

### Placental Pill

- Placenta pills used to increase energy and these allow quicker return to health after birth.
- Increase the production of breast milks.
- Decrease postnatal depression and sleep disorder.
- Decrease the iron deficiency.

### Contra Indication for Placental Pills

- Mother with presence of pathogenic factor.
- Common cold.
- History of mastitis.

### Placental Cosmotic Use

- Placenta has been utilizing for cosmetic since form 50 to 60 year back only. Dr. paul nichans in early 1930 invented as an injection for cosmetic purpose.
- This injectable are using for the purpose of anti aging process.
- It is used as a ingredient in cosmetic creams and skin care product.
- Placenta based cream scrubs help to clear pores and stimulates blood circulation which helps to prevent cellulitis.

## 2. Conclusion

Placenta is rich in hormones and with medicinal effect to heal the wound (burns), consumption of placenta reduces postpartum depression, and act as anti aging product. So placenta is not something wasted, rather to be used with befitted a lot.

## References

- [1] <http://pregnancyandchildhealthsuite101.com>
- [2] Riley J. K Trophoblast Immune Receptors in Maternal-Fetal Tolerance (Google scholar)
- [3] [www.carefare.com](http://www.carefare.com)